

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

The applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of claim 1 in view of LARDELLIER (US 4940196) for the following reasons.

The present invention is directed to a method of removing a nacelle assembly from a gas turbine engine as expressly claimed in claim 1. Specifically, the nacelle assembly is attached in such a way as to be releasably detachable from the engine. The method of detaching the nacelle assembly begins with releasing a first attachment means 48 and translating the nacelle assembly 40 forward relative to the engine. A second attachment means 52 is provided to disengage the nacelle assembly from the casing assembly 34 when the nacelle assembly is translated in its forward position (Page 7 line 35 to Page 8 line 11). Similarly, the nacelle assembly can be attached by reversing the aforesaid method.

LARDELLIER discloses a method for demounting an engine. The nacelle assembly is stiffened by arm 35 which is connected to the engine casing and the inner and outer cowlings. Three structural arms 36 spaced at 120° and two casing rings 10 and 37 (Figs. 1, 6 and 8) are provided to stiffen the structure 12b and 12c. To allow for expansion the structural arms 36 are slidable at their outer ends on axles 38. Use is also made of the sliding facility when the engine is demounted (Column 5 lines 27-37). LARDELLIER fails to suggest or teach removal of the nacelle assembly as expressly claimed in claim 1 of the present invention. Therefore, it is believed that the present invention is novel and inventive over LARDELLIER.

Entry of this amendment is solicited, is believed appropriate, and is believed to distinguish the invention from the cited reference. For the foregoing reasons, reconsideration and allowance are believed in order and are solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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